



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 24, 2004

S. 1516

Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on February 11, 2004*

SUMMARY

S. 1516 would authorize the appropriation of \$20 million for 2005 and \$15 million for each subsequent fiscal year for a program to address the infestation of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive trees in the West. The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, would provide grants to institutions of higher education to develop public policy expertise in long-term management strategies for these invasive species. In addition, the Secretary would fund at least five demonstration projects to assess methods for controlling Salt Cedar and Russian Olive trees. Finally, the Secretary would work with the Secretary of Agriculture to analyze methods of disposing of the biomass created as a result of the removal of these invasive species.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1516 would cost \$39 million over the 2005-2009 period. Enacting S. 1516 would not affect direct spending or revenues. S. 1516 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1516 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Authorization Level	0	20	15	15	15	15
Estimated Outlays	0	2	5	8	11	13

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 1516 will be enacted before the end of fiscal year 2004 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated in each fiscal year, starting in 2005. Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation and historical spending patterns for similar programs, CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost \$39 million over the 2005-2009 period.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1516 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On December 30, 2003, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2707, a similar bill that was ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on October 29, 2003. The differences in the cost estimates for these two bills are the result of different authorized levels of funding.

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